

REMARKS

Claims 24, 26, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35-43 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 24, 26 and 27 are amended and claims 25, 28, 30, 32 and 34 are canceled. Support for the amendments to claims 24, 26 and 27 may be found in paragraph [0108] and Fig. 1, for example. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 24-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Jiro (JP 2002-063736). This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 25, 28, 30, 32 and 34, and traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

The Office Action asserts that Jiro discloses that the resin layer is extended to inside of the annular convex portion in a radial direction. See p. 3 of the Office Action. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Jiro does not disclose or suggest that "the light transmitting resin layer includes an annular convex portion [and] ... an inner part which is extended to inside of the annular convex portion in a radial direction[,]" as recited in claim 24.

Jiro discloses annular heights 600 which form the edges of clear layer tangent lines. See Drawings 10, 11 and 12. Thus, Jiro does not disclose or suggest that "the light transmitting resin layer includes an annular convex portion [and] ... an inner part which is extended to inside of the annular convex portion in a radial direction[,]" as recited in claim 24. Further, because Jiro does not disclose or suggest an inner part, Jiro cannot disclose or suggest that the annular convex portion, the inner part and the outer part are integrated with each other, as recited in claim 24. Thus, Jiro does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 24.

In view of the above, Jiro does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 24. Claims 26, 27, 29, 31, 33 depend from claim 24. Thus, Jiro does not disclose or

suggest the subject matter recited in claims 26, 27, 29, 31 and 33. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Jiro does not disclose or suggest the following recited features:

Claim	Recited feature
26	the resin layer is formed so that a thickness of the inner part is smaller than that of the outer part
27	the resin layer is formed so that a thickness of the inner part becomes smaller toward inside in the radial direction ¹
31	the annular convex portion is formed intermittently in a circumferential direction
33	the support substrate has a stepwise shape

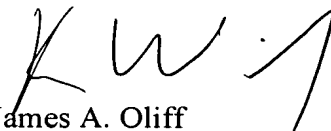
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully solicit the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24, 26, 27, 29, 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

¹ Applicants note that Jiro cannot disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 26 and 27 because these claims recite an inner part, and Jiro does not disclose or suggest an inner part, as discussed supra.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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